

Be Prepared . . .

## Winter Rains Could Cause Flooding

**D**uring a major rainstorm, some areas of Long Beach could become flooded. Please take a minute to learn how you can prepare.

### Flood Hazard Areas & Insurance

The map shows the 100-year floodplain in the shaded areas as it appears on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) adopted Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) now in effect. To find out if your property is in the flood-hazard area, search the detailed maps that are on file on the 10th floor of City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd; call 570.6784; or visit [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov).

Standard homeowner insurance policies do not cover losses due to floods. However, Long Beach is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, which allows Long Beach property owners to obtain federally backed flood insurance. This insurance is available to any owner of insurable property (a building or its contents) in Long Beach. Flood insurance is sometimes required by law, so call your insurance agent for details and rates.

### Flood Warning System

Long Beach has developed a flood warning system designed to provide at least one hour of advance warning of a flood hazard. Flood watches (when conditions are conducive to flooding) and flood warnings (when flooding is imminent) will be issued via *Reverse 9-1-1*, the City's Emergency Notification System; LBTV Cable Channel 8; and TV, radio, and mobile public address capabilities.

### Flood Safety

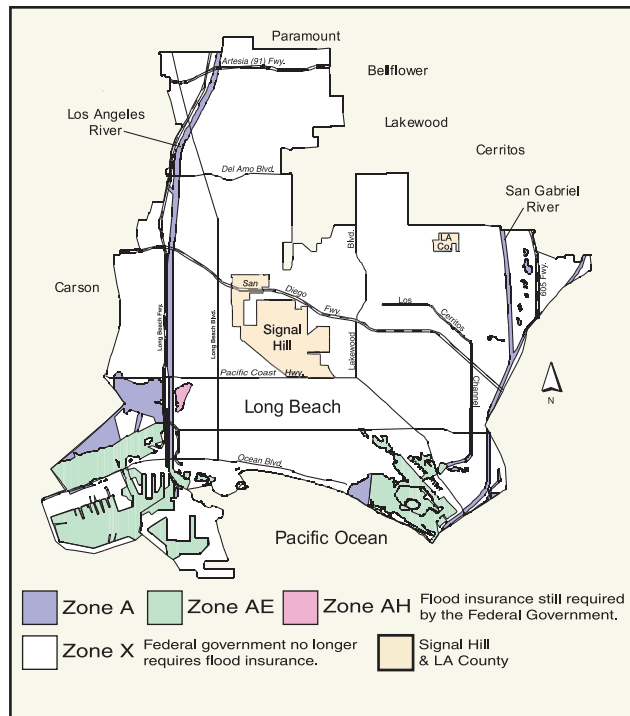
If you live in a flood zone, there are several actions you can take to minimize injury during a flood:

- Turn off all electric circuits at the fuse panel or disconnect the switch. If this is not possible, turn off or disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Shut off the water service and gas valves in your home.
- Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flooding or when advised to do so by police or fire officials.
- Do not cross a flowing stream when water is above your knees.
- Keep children away from flood waters such as rivers, ditches, culverts and storm drains, even when it is not raining.
- If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.

### Property Protection

Protect your property in advance. Here's what you can do to avoid future damage:

- If time permits, move essential items and furniture to the upper floors of your home.
- Elevate or relocate electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters and washers/dryers.
- Install basement floor drains, interior and exterior backwater valves and interior floodwalls around utilities.
- Keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing.
- Locations that distribute sand bags can be obtained by calling the Emergency Preparedness Hotline 570.5252. Sand must be purchased separately at hardware stores.
- References on floodproofing are available at the Main Library, 101 Pacific Ave., or by calling 570.7500.
- Call Planning and Building at 570.6651 to obtain Floodproofing permits or copies of recorded elevation certificates.



- Always check with Planning and Building before you alter, re-grade, build on, or add fill on your property. If you see building or filling without a City permit sign posted, call 570.6651.

### About the City's Storm Drains

Long Beach has a complex system of storm drainage including streets, gutters, catch basins, underground pipes, ditches, streams and creeks, channels and rivers, and pump stations. The storm drainage system must be kept clear of debris to ensure that it works efficiently. A plugged drain could cause unnecessary flooding when it rains. To report illegal dumping, call 570-3867.

## Holiday Safety Tips

- Give yourself plenty of time to get where you are going
- If you drink . . . don't drive; prearrange a designated driver
- Always use safety belts and child safety seats
- Keep furniture and rugs at least three feet away from heat sources
- Keep live trees well-watered, stable, and out of traffic patterns
- Always unplug lights before leaving home or going to bed
- Keep children, pets, and toys away from cooking areas

You'll find more holiday safety tips at [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov)